

# St. Stanislaus Cathedral

[www.saintstanislauspncc.org](http://www.saintstanislauspncc.org)

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**The First Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church**

**529 East Locust St. Scranton, PA 18505 – Rectory 570-343-6017**

The Right Reverend Bernard J. Nowicki, DD, pastor – [bishop@saintstanislauspncc.org](mailto:bishop@saintstanislauspncc.org)

The Reverend Janusz A. Lucarz, assistant pastor – [frjanusz@saintstanislauspncc.org](mailto:frjanusz@saintstanislauspncc.org)

Ms. Rebecca Elfman – Organist / Director of Music

## Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 13, 2023



**Masses: 8:00 am**–Traditional Holy Mass      **9:30 am**–Contemporary Holy Mass  
**11:15 am**–Traditional Holy Mass, Cathedral Chapel, Our Savior, Tripp Park

**Parish Office:** 570-961-9231 – **Youth Center:** 570-961-8364

Fred Aebli: [Parishchair@saintstanislauspncc.org](mailto:Parishchair@saintstanislauspncc.org)

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Parish Information: [Office@saintstanislauspncc.org](mailto:Office@saintstanislauspncc.org)



### *Lectors:*

**8/13** – 8:00 – K. Michalina

9:30 – M. Hughes

11:15 – D. Rychleski

**8/20** – 8:00 – J. Andrzejewski

9:30 – E. Hughes

11:15 – D. Rychleski

### Next Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Mass: **8:00 am** Traditional **9:30am** Contemporary

**11:15 am** Cathedral Chapel, Tripp Park

**Cathedral Office Manager Job Posting** – St. Stanislaus Cathedral is seeking to fill the office manager position by this September when Luann, our current Office Manager will be retiring. The candidate search is underway as we repost the announcement of this placement opportunity. The position is flexible and rewarding. All interested applicants may contact the parish office for more details to include flexible hours, salary, and responsibilities as they work with the parish committee and clergy.

**ANS Thank You** – The ANS Society would like to extend their sincere appreciation to one of their Earthly Angel's, Diane Fallon for July Altar Care. May The Holy Spirit bestow his blessings upon you Sister, now & forever. Amen.

President,  
*Kathy Michalina*

**Providence of God Chicken Barbecue** - Providence of God Parish will hold their annual Chicken Barbecue on **Sunday, August 20, 2023 on the Church grounds on Oak Street in North Scranton**. The dinner is from 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$15.00. The menu includes a cup of clam chowder, a half chicken, an ear of fresh corn, green beans, assorted cakes, coffee and soda. There will be a 50/50 raffle. Limited tickets are available at the door so reservations are encouraged. To reserve tickets you can call Janet Kelly at 570-561-7446 or Father Walter at 570-388-6061.

**Wildflowers, herbs, grasses and the Solemnity of the Assumption/Dormition of Mary, August 15<sup>th</sup>** – In Poland, Aug. 15 is called *Matki Boskiej Zielnej* – Blessed Mother (or Our Lady) of the Herbs. People traditionally gather herbs — not just plants like basil or mint, but all sorts of wildflowers and grain grasses — and bring them to the church for a blessing on Mary’s feast.

The custom isn’t just Polish but was common across Europe by the 10th century. (In Germany, the feast was sometimes called *Krautertag*.)

The blessed flowers and grains were then taken by farmers and scattered in fields and gardens, along with prayers for a good harvest next year. The blessed herbs were kept over the winter because it was believed they had both special healing powers and heightened quality as seasonings.

A traditional blessing reads, in part: “Almighty, everlasting God ... with mind and mouth we humbly implore you to bless with your clemency these herbs and fruits of various kinds, and to pour forth upon their natural power, already given by you, the grace of your new blessing; that ... they may provide protection against all disease and adversity.”

In Eastern churches, the feast is known as the Dormition of the Holy *Theotokos* — (the falling asleep of the God-bearer.) In the Armenian Church, there is a blessing of grapes (*Khaglogh Orhnek*) on Aug. 15.

The grapes are harvested at this time of year and the church celebrates the blessing in memory, in part, of the offering of “first fruits” that dates to Old Testament times. As the Armenian Church in America’s website explains: “Jesus Christ was the first born — or the first fruit — of Mary and, as such, was offered to God in the temple.”

Countless flowers such as roses and lilies have been associated with Mary – both for her personal attributes and to commemorate her life story. These range from marigolds to Assumption lilies (hostas) and include the royal flower of France – the iris, or fleur-de-lis. So many flowers have been linked to the Virgin that gardens have been planted for her. First called “St. Mary Gardens,” now just Mary Gardens, they trace to 15th century Scotland and England. These medieval gardens contained flowers and herbs, many of which are connected by legend to the infancy of Jesus, such as sage and lavender, which were bushes upon which Mary may have spread clothing after washing it on the flight to Egypt.

On Aug. 15, whether we bless herbs, grains, flowers or grapes, or just attend Mass in celebration, the sweetness of the feast and the harvest should remind us of Mary’s own words: “The Almighty has done great things for me” (Lk 1:49). And God promises the same for us.

- Patricia Kasten

**Altar Flowers** – The floral pieces at the high altar today are offered to the glory of God and in memory of Dr. Robert Sarnowski offered by Nancy Margle.

**Altar Flower Fund** – If you are interested in making a donation for flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please contact Connie Tellep at 570-222- 4409. The donation would be \$60 to cover the cost for a Sunday. If you just want to donate any amount to the fund, you can send a check made payable to ANS Flower Fund, to the Parish office or just drop the envelope in the collection basket. Thank you for your help.

**YMS of R Grove Rental** – Hurry, hurry, hurry, reserve your day at the YMS of R grove for 2023! If you would like to reserve the YMS of R Grove for a summer outing, please contact Artie Golembeski at [570-575-5231](tel:570-575-5231) or via email at [artbowl@msn.com](mailto:artbowl@msn.com). Spots are filling up fast. So if you have a family reunion or a birthday party coming up, why not reserve the grove for the day.

***THIS WEEK'S  
LITURGIES***

**Monday, August 14**

9:30 am – Holy Mass

**Tuesday, August 15**

12:00 noon – Solemnity -  
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary, Cathedral

**Wednesday, August 16**

9:30 am – Holy Mass

**Thursday, August 17**

9:30 am – Healing Mass

**Friday, August 18**

9:30 am – Holy Mass

**Saturday, August 19**

9:30 am – Holy Mass

